

Survivors Tell Story Of Rebels On Rampage In 'Hunt For Whites'

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Rebels went on a rampage of murder and rape during their "hunt for the white man" in the Kolwezi fighting, survivors said on arrival from Zaire's copper-mining capital where 170 whites were reported killed. Some accused Zairean troops of looting.

About 1,700 of the 2,500 Europeans and Americans trapped during the May 13-20 siege had been flown to Europe by this morning as French and Belgian paratroopers mopped up rebel resistance in Shaba Province.

THE FRENCH Defense Ministry in Paris said rebel forces armed with Soviet-made weapons remained concentrated in a six-mile radius around Kolwezi and were still within small-arms range of its airport.

Olivier Stirn, France's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, told a radio interviewer in Paris that least 170 whites had been killed in the Kolwezi area. Scores of others, including 50 French citizens, are missing and may be held hostage by the rebels, Stirn said.

Following reports of Belgian-French differences over the combined paratroop operation, the office of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing said Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans telephoned the president today to express thanks "for French efforts to ensure the security of Belgian citizens in Kolwezi."

A Belgian refugee arriving in Brussels who identified himself only as Dupont, an engineer for Zaire's state-owned Gecamines company, said 120 white deaths were confirmed. He said the last whites, mostly doctors and Gecamines managers, were evacuated from Kolwezi Sunday night.

Claude Mercury, a French survivor arriving here, said he feared 170-180 whites had died. Sotiris Casar, a Briton married to an Italian, said on reaching Rome that he believed 200 whites were killed.



(AP Photo)

A RED CROSS official who accompanied Belgian and French paratroopers into the war-torn Shaba province puts the personal belongings of two massacre victims in Kolwezi, Zaire, into plastic pouches Sunday.

PREVIOUS reports from the paratroops who chased the rebels from Kolwezi over the weekend said the rebels killed at least 100 whites, 150 Zaireans and suffered 200 dead of their own.

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"It was if the hunting season had been opened in Kolwezi. The hunt was a hunt for the white man," a mining engineer among the survivors who arrived in Brussels said Sunday.

He said four of his neighbors went to their garden gates to

find out what was going on in the pre-dawn hours of May 13 and were killed by bursts of rebel machine-gun fire.

Another survivor said the rebels "kept on firing useless volleys in all direction with no reason," and that ragged

armed boys were "looting and shooting those refusing to hand over their watches or money while rebels looked on or took part."

One woman said she fled to a private club in Kolwezi "where I knew there were some food preserves. The Zaire army city headquarters was nearby. Some Zaire army soldiers came and said they would protect us. They emptied all the ladies' handbags and pocketed their contents. One lady had a box with money. They took the box away from her."

Jean-Marie Lallemand, a 31-year-old French survivor, said the rebels scarred Frenchmen "on the forehead and cheeks with knives to discourage Zaireans from harboring them."

"I saw three Katangans rape a 10-year-old girl in the presence of her parents and three brothers. People were beaten before they were killed. It was horrible."

KATANGA was the name of Shaba Province when Zaire was the Belgian Congo. The rebels, Lunda tribesman, were driven into Angola in the 1960s after Zaire won independence, and are bent on making Shaba independent of the Zaire government.

Richard Schambourg, a French foreman, said the Zairean soldiers were panic-stricken when the fighting began. "They were shooting in every direction," he said.

"My supervisor's house was razed by artillery fire because there were two Katangans in the yard. We discovered a slaughter-house in the Zaire army headquarters. Thirty people who had been taken in for safety had been massacred. We are not about to forget these visions of horror."

A NUN identified as Sister Helena said, "We were subjected to the worst kind of violence." A 20-year-old Belgian woman said she was raped eight times by rebel soldiers.

Morrison-Knudsen, a Boise, Idaho construction firm building a power line in Zaire, evacuated more than 70 Americans Wednesday. Fourteen others were reported missing at the time, but only one of them —